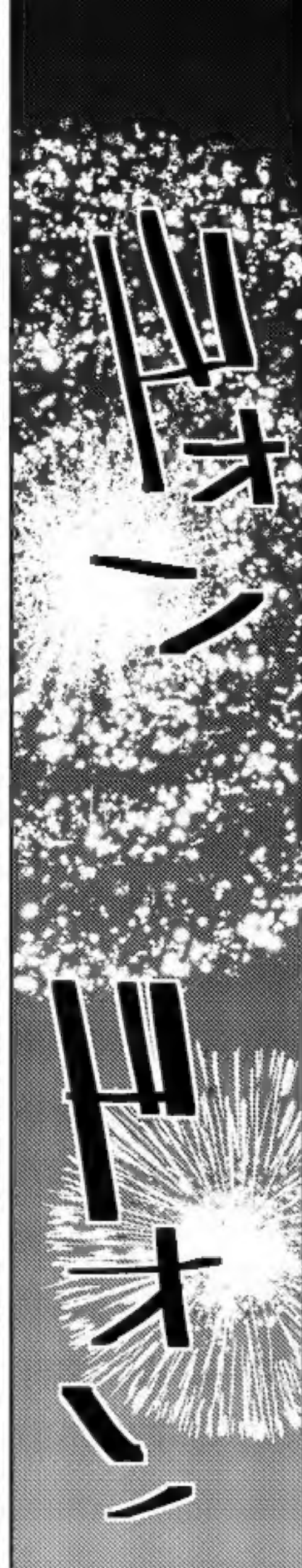


Chapter 9. Today's a Day Off ③



THEY
ORIGINATED
IN CHINA
BUT WERE
INTRODUCED
ALONGSIDE
GUNS BY
EUROPEANS
IN TANE-
GASHIMA...

THEY SAY
THAT THE FIRST
PERSON TO HAVE
SEEN FIREWORKS
HERE IN JAPAN
WAS TOKUGAWA
IEYASU.



TN: Tanegashima (種子島) is an island in southwestern Japan

SFX: boom boom

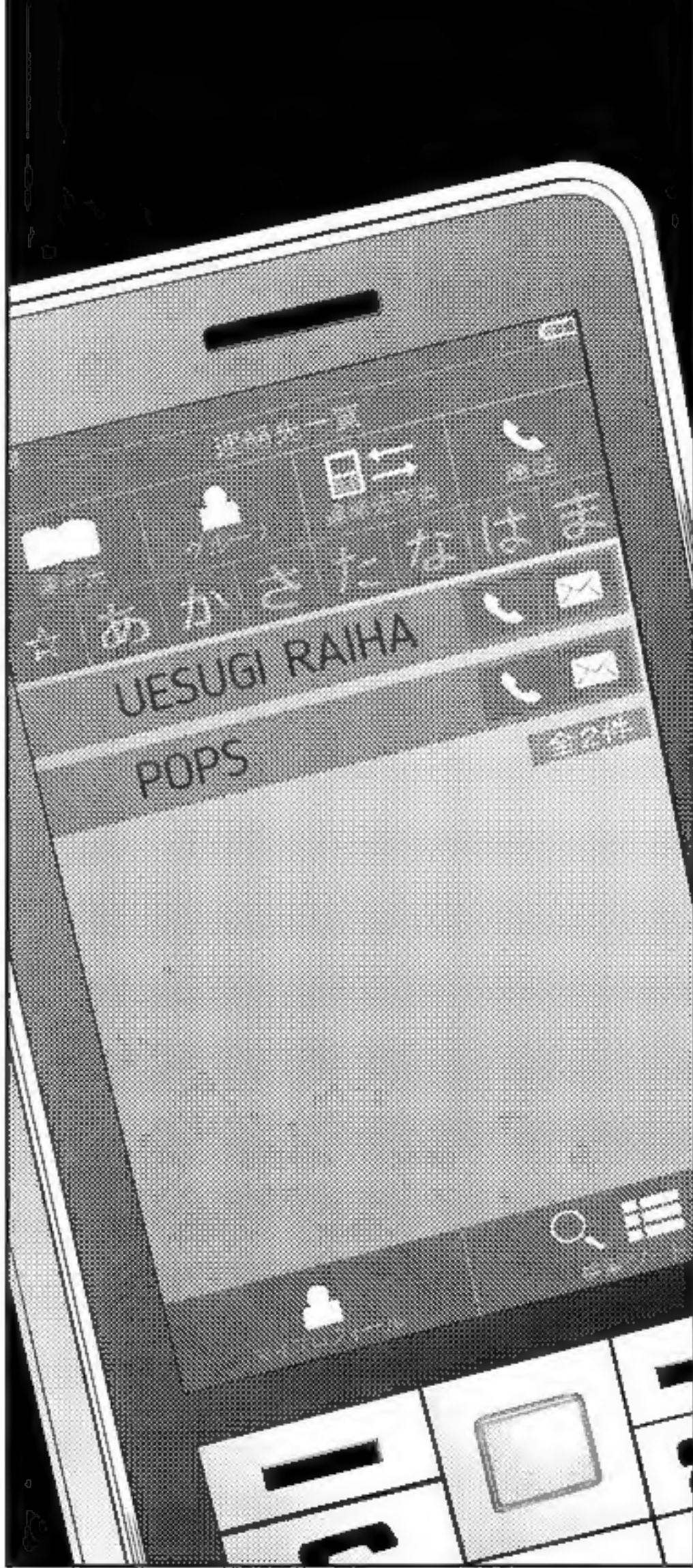
SFX: boom boom



IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU
SCREWED
UP!

THIS
SUCKS!

HOW DID
I WIND UP
WITH THE
MISFORTUNE
OF WATCHING
THE FIREWORKS
WITH YOU!?



STOP
SPACING
OUT AND
HELP ME
CALL THE
OTHERS!



IF
YOU
SAY
SO.

THE
FIREWORKS
HAVE
ALREADY
STARTED,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

YOTSUBA!
YOU'RE
WITH THE
LITTLE
SISTER
RIGHT
NOW?



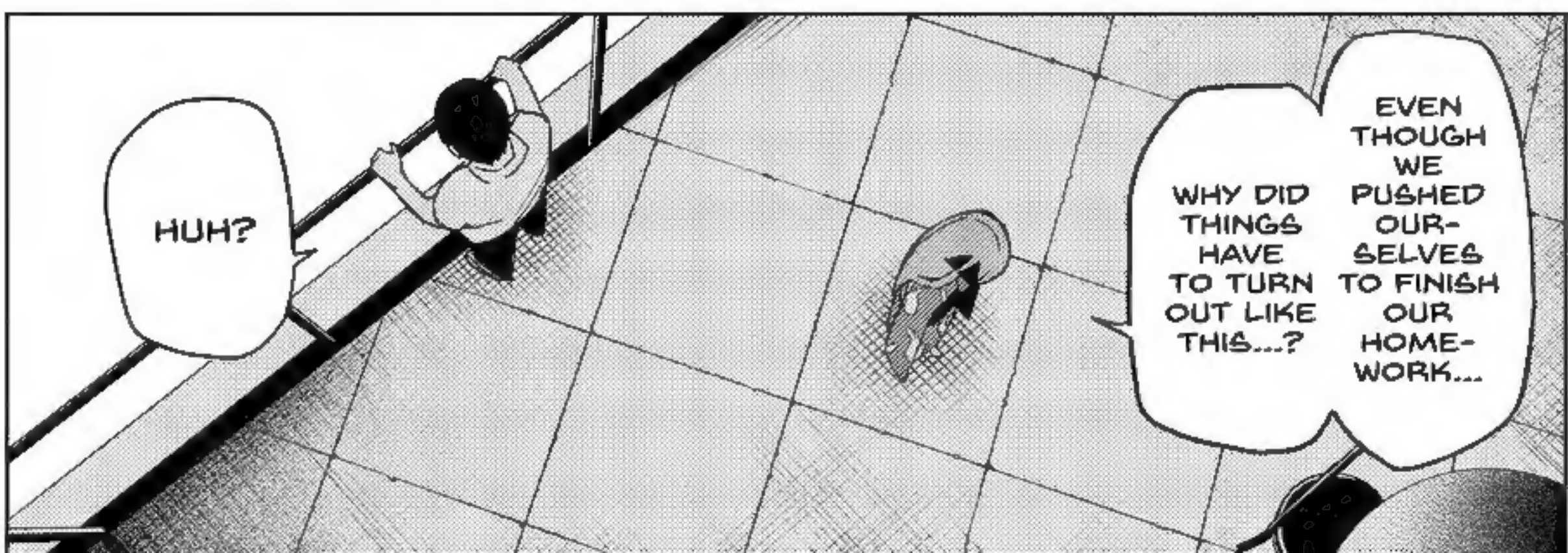
HUH? THE
CLOCK
TOWER?
WE'LL
COME
GET YOU,
SO STAY
PUT!



YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO'S
USELESS
IN THIS
SITUATION!!



IT'S
NO GOOD!
MY PHONE
IS USELESS
IN THIS
SITUATION!!



HUH?

WHY DID
THINGS
HAVE
TO TURN
OUT LIKE
THIS...?

EVEN
THOUGH
WE
PUSHED
OUR-
SELVES
TO FINISH
OUR
HOME-
WORK...



IT'S A MEMORY WE SHARED WITH OUR MOM.



IT'S NOT
LIKE I
WANT TO
BE ALONE
WITH YOU
EITHER.



I'LL
GO AND
BRING
HER
HERE.

NEVER
MIND.

I'LL
LEAVE
ICHIKA
TO YOU.



...
HMPH.

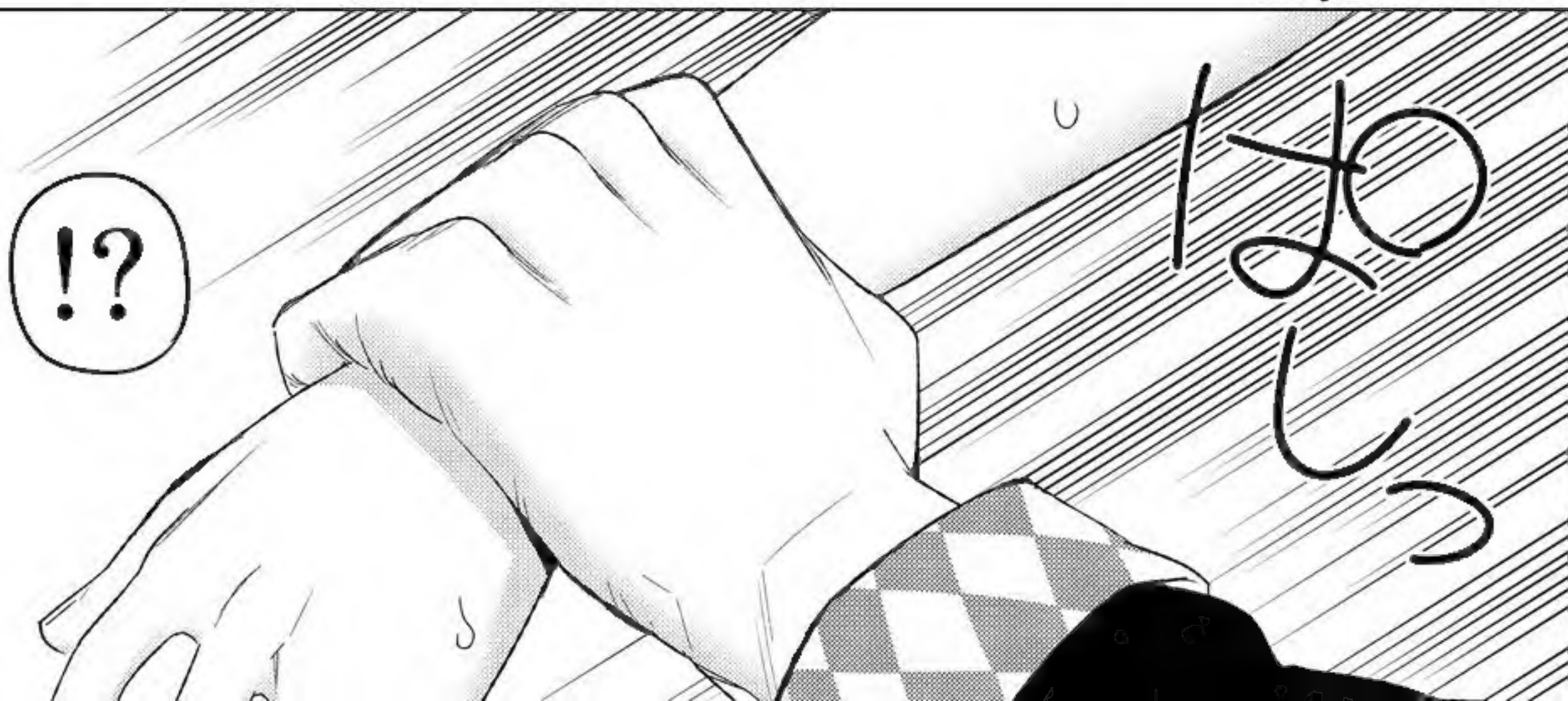
THAT'S
MY LI-

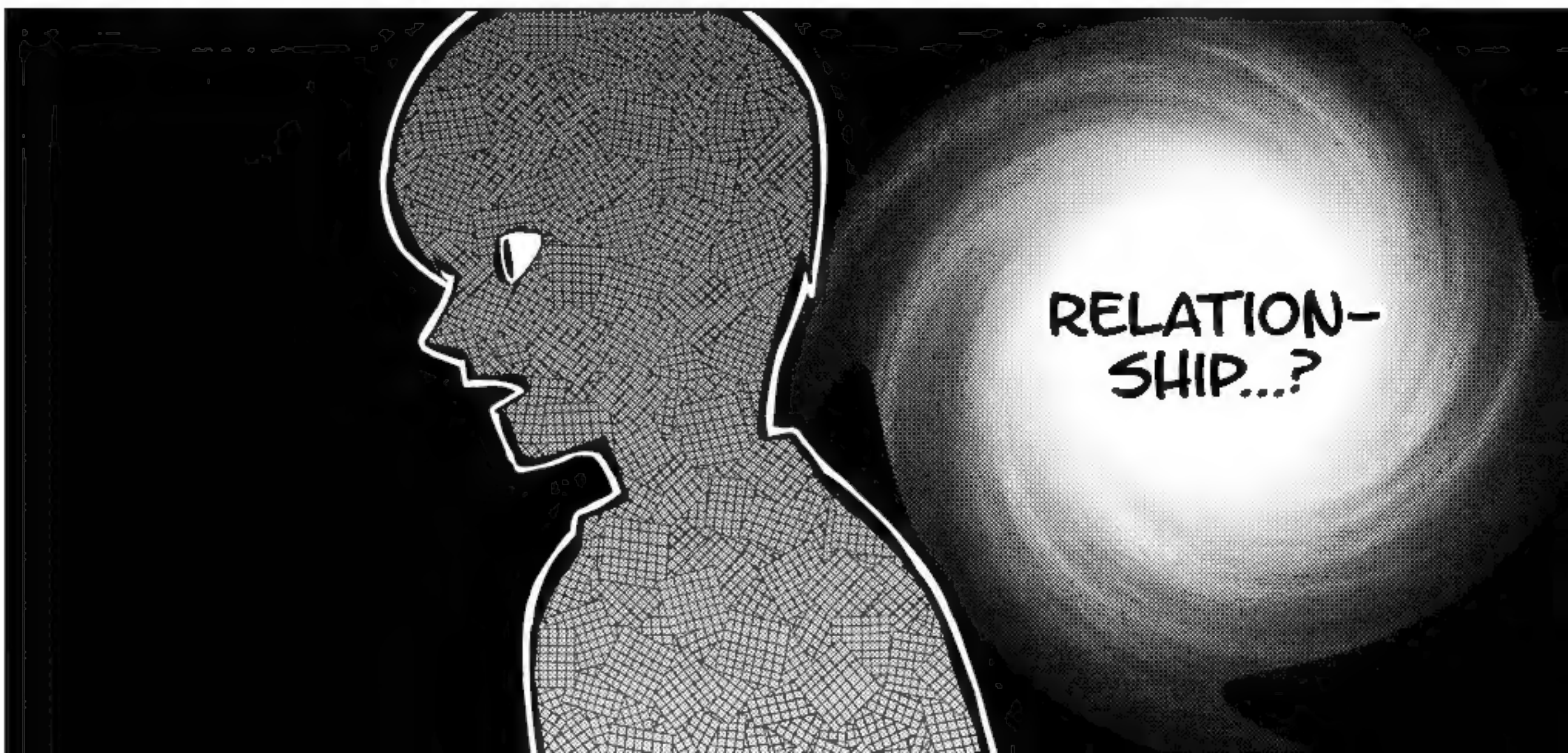
SFX: grip





SFX: grab

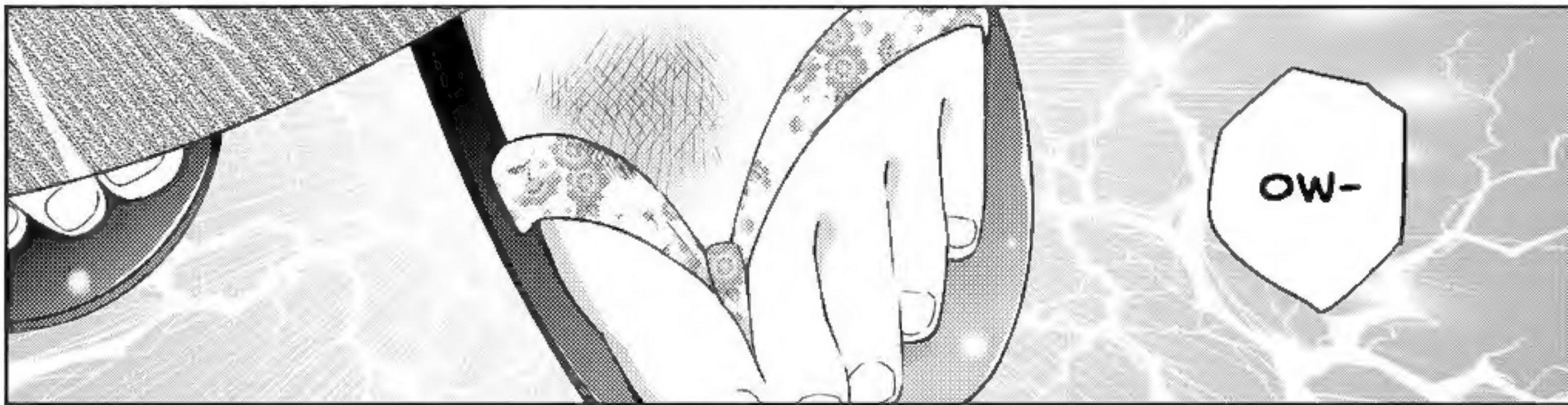






SFX: turn turn







MIKU.

CAN
YOU SEE
ICHIKA
FROM UP
THERE?

HUH
...?

ICHIKA...?
NO, I
DON'T
SEE HER
AT ALL...

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE
PLANNING
ON CHASING
AFTER HER
LIKE THIS?

SFX: pull

OH,
RIGHT.





SO...
DID YOU
REALLY
SEE
ICHIKA?



I'M
PRETTY
SURE SHE
NOTICED
ME
BUT
SHE RAN
OFF WITH
SOME OLD
GUY WITH
A MOUS-
TACHE.



YEAH
...



ACTUALLY,
WHATEVER.
THERE'S
ONLY 40
MINUTES
LEFT.

WHAT THE
HECK?
YOU DON'T
THINK
THEY'RE
UP TO
ANYTHING
SHADY,
DO YOU?

JUST
WHAT
IS SHE
DOING?



I DO
RECALL
SEEING
ICHIKA GET-
TING OUT OF
THE CAR OF
A MOUS-
TACHED GUY
BEFORE...



DOES
ANYONE
COME TO
MIND?

NO.



AH.



THAT'S NOT RELATED TO STUDYING...

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'D CARE THIS MUCH ABOUT SOMETHING

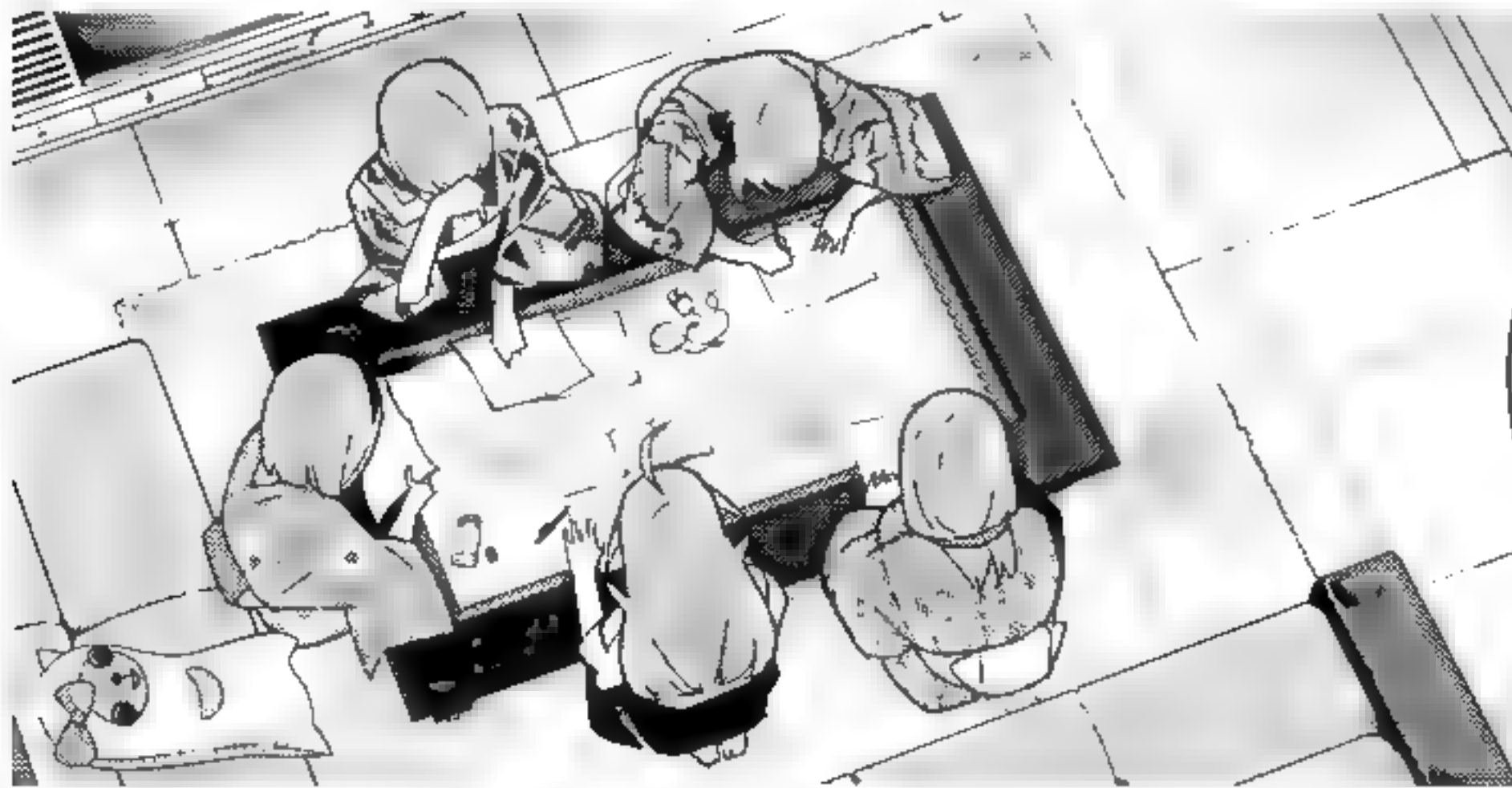
WELL EXCUSE ME...



I CAN BE CONSIDERATE TOO, Y'KNOW.



AT THIS RATE, THE FIREWORKS WILL BE OVER BEFORE THE FIVE OF YOU CAN REUNITE.



ESPECIALLY AFTER SEEING YOU GUYS WORK SO DESPERATELY TO FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK.



YEAH.



CAN YOU WALK?



JUST ONE WILL DO!

WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU TWO HAVE?

WE'RE OFFERING 100-YEN VOUCHERS TO PARTICIPANTS IN OUR QUESTIONNAIRE.



I'M IN A HURRY, SO...!



EXCUSE ME, WE'RE CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS FESTIVAL...



SORRY, BUT I'M IN A HURRY.



WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH ICHIKA-CHAN?



WE'RE NOT DATING...

EH?



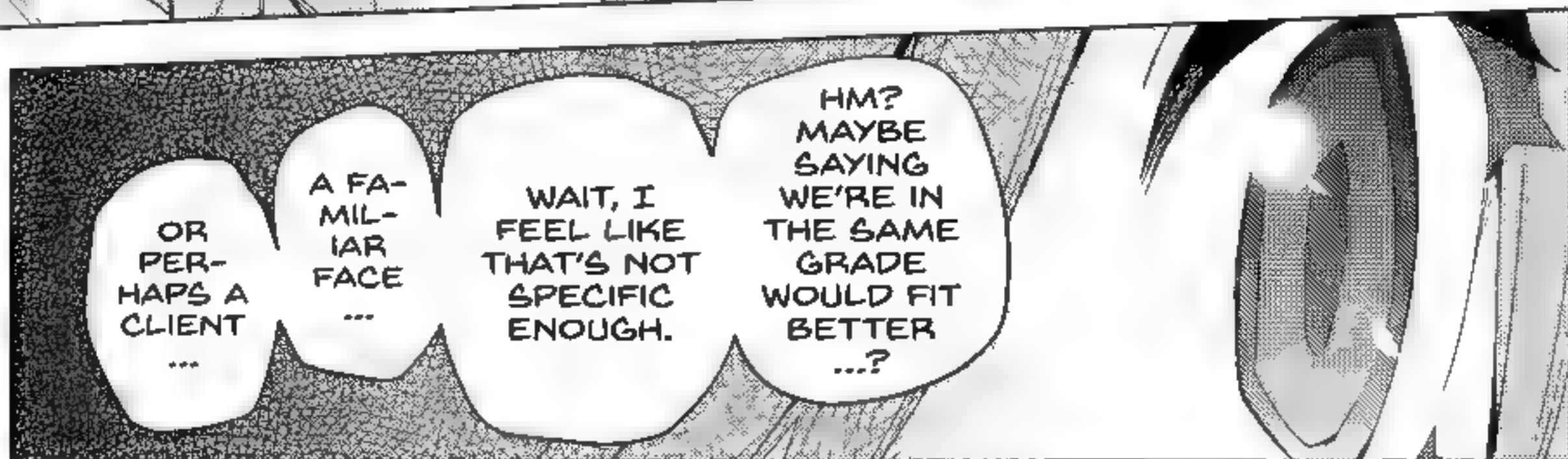
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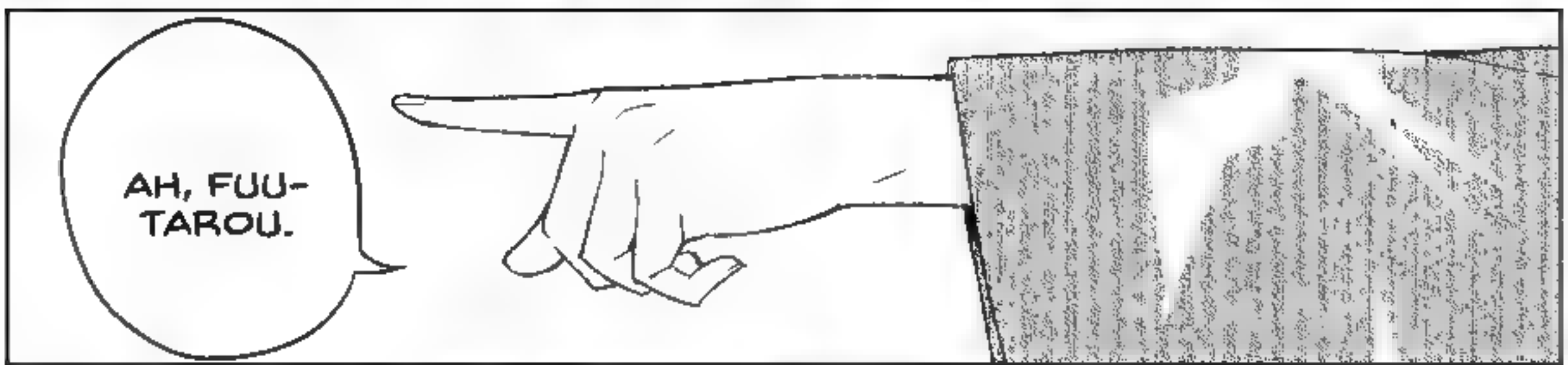
OH, RIGHT.

THEY'RE CLEARLY AN ITEM.

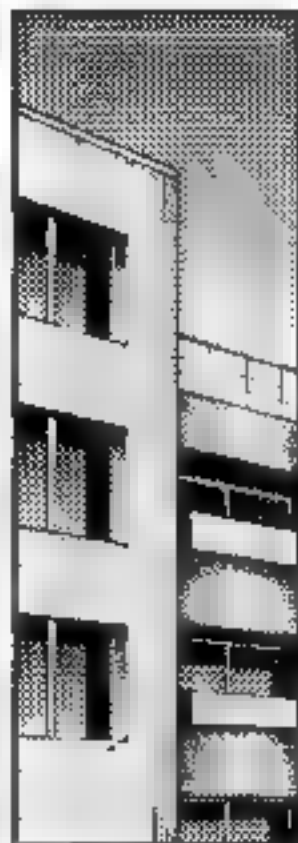
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK THAT ONE.







SFX: stamp





CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

MIKU'S RESTING ON A SIDE STREET NEARBY. LET'S MEET UP WITH HER FIRST.

NOW THAT JUST LEAVES ICHIKA UNACCOUNTED FOR.

UNDERSTOOD.



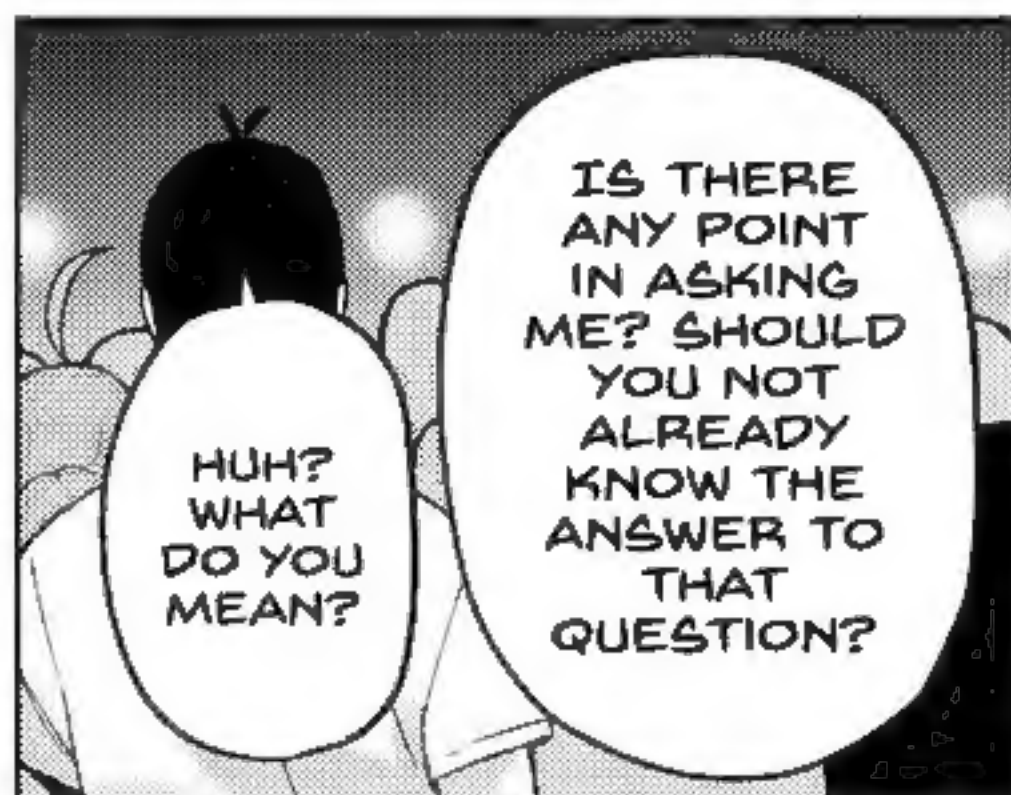
AT LEAST TRY TO HIDE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT A LITTLE.

OH, IT'S JUST YOU.



WHAT SORT OF HARROWING QUESTION IS THAT?

WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DO WE HAVE?



HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IS THERE ANY POINT IN ASKING ME? SHOULD YOU NOT ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT'VE GONE?

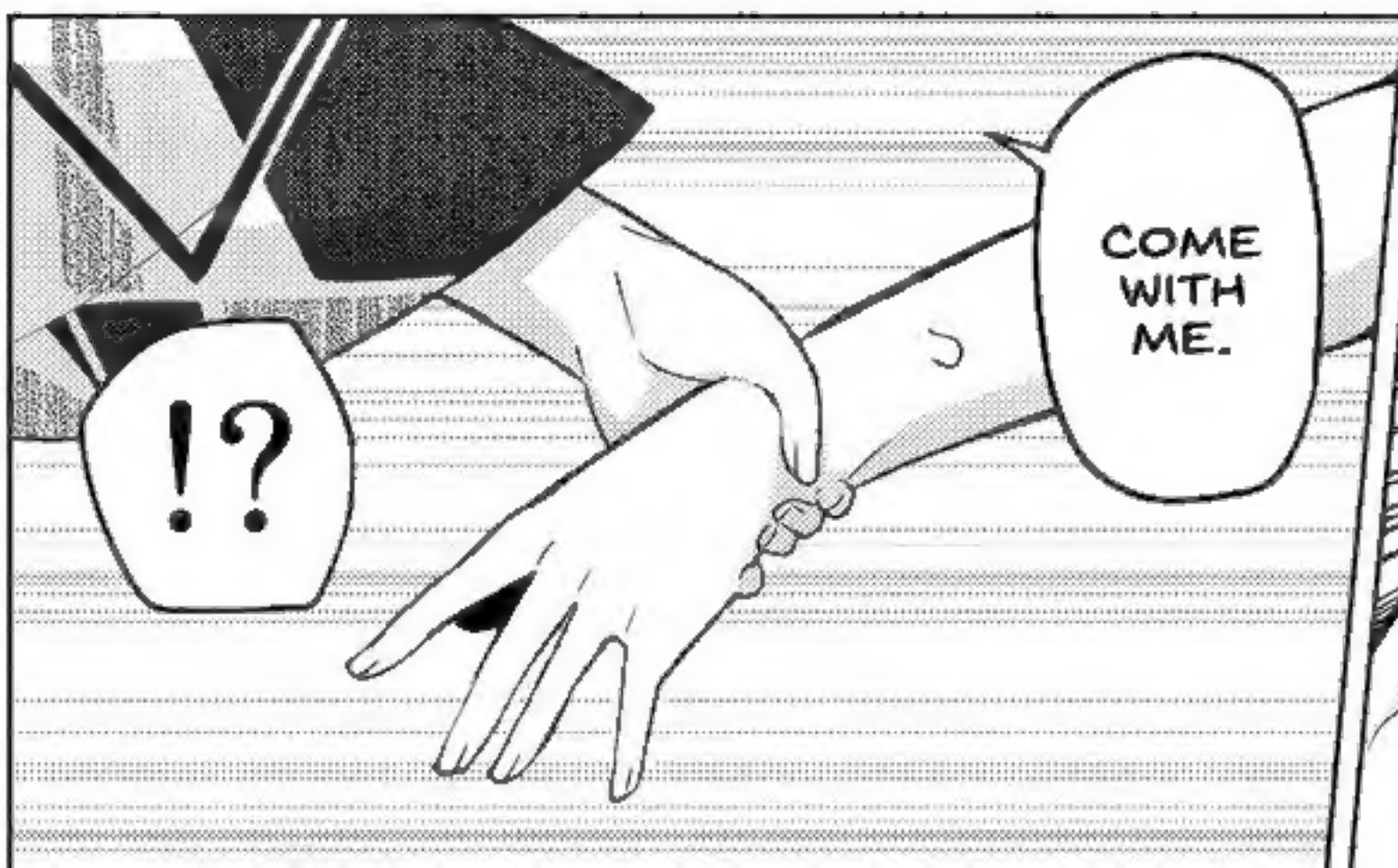
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT ICHIKA,

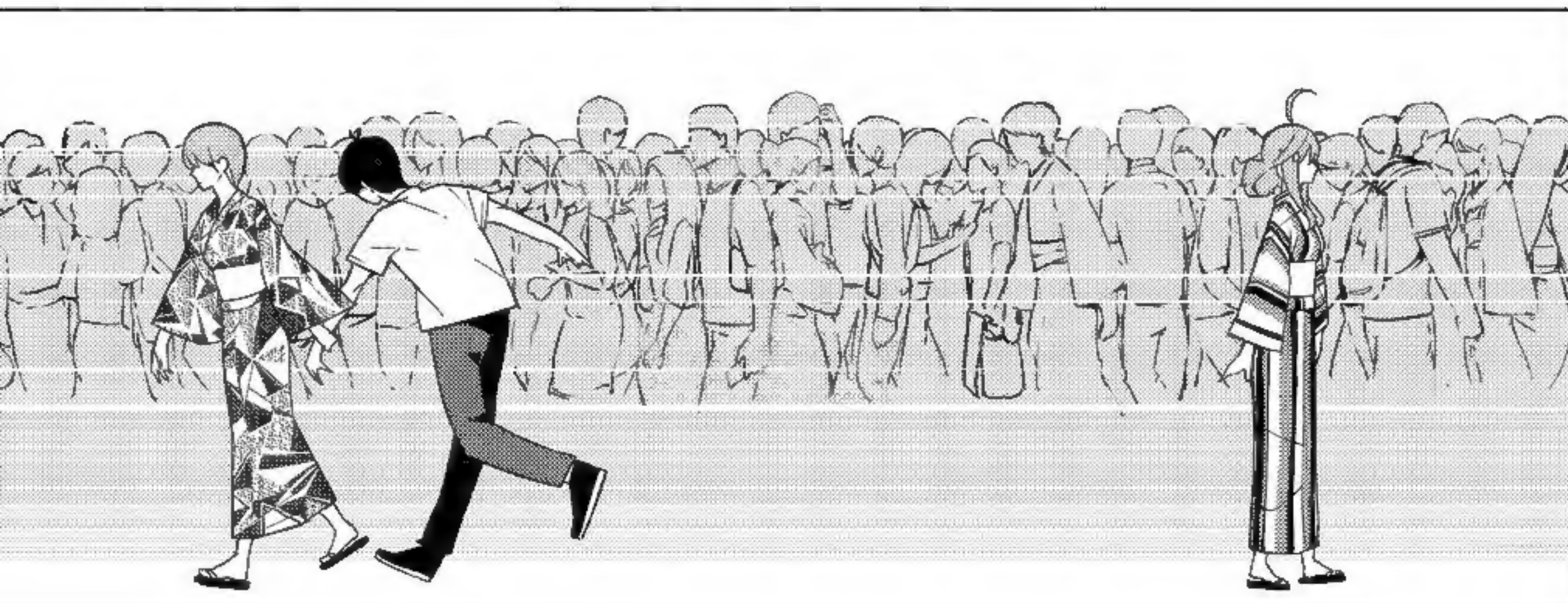


IF I HAD TO BE GENEROUS, I'D SAY WE'RE TOTAL STRANGERS.

LET'S SEE NOW...

THAT'S BEING GENEROUS!?







I CAN'T
WATCH THE
FIREWORKS
WITH THEM.

I NEED
YOU TO
KEEP WHAT
HAPPENED
EARLIER A
SECRET
FROM THE
OTHERS.

SFX: slam



Huh!?
Uesugi-
kun!?

